

RECYCLING TERMINOLOGY:

Ambient: any unconfined portion of the atmosphere; open air. *

Asbestos: a mineral fiber that can pollute air or water and cause cancer or asbestosis when inhaled. *

Biodegradable: a substance able to decay or decompose naturally without harming the environment, such as wood, food scraps, paper and grass clippings.

Composting: a process that allows you to decompose some of your table scraps and yard waste. This is done by a layering process so everything decays into fertile humus (or new soil). **

Conserve: to protect something from becoming overused, harmed, or damaged.

Consumer: animals that get their food and energy from other living things, plants or animals.

Decay: the gradual breakdown of dead organic material

Decomposition: is an organic process necessary for the continuation of life since it creates essential nutrients that plants and animals need and use. **

Disposal: The discharge, deposit, injection, dumping, spilling, leaking, or placing of any solid waste or hazardous waste into the environment (land, surface water, ground water, and air). **

Ecosystem: a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

Energy Recovery: the creation of energy by burning solid waste materials. **

Emissions: the release or discharge of a substance into the environment. *

Food Scraps: food that can be put into a compost bin, typically fruit and vegetable scraps. (Note: meat, dairy, and oils excluded due to attraction of pests)

Grasscycling: the natural recycling of grass by leaving clippings on the lawn when mowing to give valuable nutrients to the soil.

Hazardous Waste: poisonous waste that can cause problems for living organism or the environment. **

Industrial Waste: Unwanted materials produced in or eliminated from an industrial operation and categorized under a variety of headings, such as liquid wastes, sludge, solid wastes, and hazardous wastes. *

Inorganic: any material that is not composed of matter that was once living or produced by a living organism.

Landfill: a facility where municipal solid waste is disposed in a series of layers and covered daily with soil and other types of materials.

Leachate: a liquid that comes from solid waste that may be contaminated. Sometimes leachate can contaminate ground or surface water. **

Litter: waste materials that are carelessly discarded or put in the wrong place.

Methane: a gas that is colorless, odorless, flammable, and potentially dangerous. It is formed when organic matter decomposes and can be used as a fuel. **

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Mulch: a material (such as decaying leaves, bark, or compost) spread around or over a plant to enrich or insulate the soil.

Natural Resource: naturally occurring material such as soil, wood, air, water, oil or minerals. They are valuable to people, plants, and wildlife. **

Non-biodegradable: inorganic materials that do not decompose. For example, glass, metal and plastic.

Nonrenewable Resource: a natural material that is considered finite in amount (e.g., coal, copper, petroleum). This is because it takes a great length of time to form (longer than a lifetime, maybe more). **

Organic: materials that were once living or material produced by a living organism such as food, leaves, plant trimmings, hair, clothing fibers, paper, etc.

Packaging: The wrapper, container or plastic film used to protect, identify and advertise a product. ***

Paper: a thin material made of pulp from wood, rags or other fibrous material often used for writing, printing or packaging.

Pesticides: Any substance designed to kill living organisms, including insects (insecticides), plants (herbicides), fungi (fungicides), rats and mice (rodenticides) and bacteria (germicides). ***

Petroleum: a substance occurring naturally in the Earth in solid, liquid, or gaseous state composed of hydrocarbons to produce oil, natural gas, plastic, and fuel.

Plastic: A material made from hydrocarbons known for its lightweight and durability. ***

Pollution: harmful substances left in the environment, leading to a dirty, impure or unhealthy place. **

Prohibited Materials: materials not allowed in landfills according to the operational permit designed for each landfill.

Raw material: an unprocessed natural resource or product used in manufacturing. **

Recyclable: Products or materials that can be collected, separated and processed to be used as raw materials in the manufacture of new products. ***

Recycle: To collect, separate, process and market materials so they can be used again. ***

Red Worm: the type of worm typically used in composting systems.

Reduce: to lessen in amount, number or other quantity. **

Renewable resource: a natural resource that comes from an endless or repeating source like the: sun, wind, water, fish, trees, cotton. **

Resource recovery: The burning of solid waste to produce energy. The taking of usable materials out of solid waste, usually through high-technology processes. ***

Reuse: extending the life of an item by using it again as it is or creating a new use for it.

Rot: to decompose.

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Scrap: Waste with some value, particularly material left over from construction or manufacturing suitable for reprocessing. ***

Waste: unwanted materials left over from a manufacturing process.

Solid Waste: all solid, semi-solid, liquid and gaseous wastes, including trash, garbage, yard waste, ashes, industrial waste, construction waste, and household discards. **

Waste Prevention: any action to eliminate or reduce the amount of toxicity of materials before they enter the municipal solid waste stream.

Source Reduction: a reduction in the amount and/or toxicity of waste entering the waste stream.

Worm Casting: worm manure or the final product of worm composting. It is high-quality, rich, soil amendment that is used to fertilize plants.

Transfer Station: A facility where waste is removed from small collection vehicles and loaded onto larger transport vehicles. ***

Yard Waste: Grass clippings, shrub pruning's, leaves, tree branches and other discarded material from yards and gardens. ***

Trash: Material considered worthless or offensive that is thrown away. *

Vermicomposting: The production of compost using worms to digest organic waste. ***

Virgin materials: a product that is made with 100 percent new raw materials and contains no recycled materials.

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